

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 562

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELFAST 0142

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, U.K. (N. I.)

SUBJECT: ULSTER MP DISCUSSES HEATH'S INTENTIONS

REFERENCE: BELFAST A-46 OF JUNE 11, 1973

1. ON SEPTEMBER 15 STRATTON MILLS, ALLIANCE PARTY MP AT WESTMINSTER, GAVE HIS VIEW OF HEATH'S INTENTIONS RE N. I. ACCORDING MILLS, HEATH HAS CONCLUDED N. I. ASSEMBLY CUM EXECUTIVE WILL NOT BE MADE TO WORK. PURPOSE OF HIS RECENT VISIT TO N.I. WAS TO VET THIS CONCLUSION BY INSPECTION ON GROUND. PM FORSEES INTERMINABLE WRANGLING AMONG N. I. POLITICIANS, AND IS THEREFORE "SEEKING SOLUTIONS." VISIT TO COSGRAVE MUST BE SEEN IN THIS CONTEXT.

2. MILLS NOTED THAT HEATH'S METHOD, WHEN FACED WITH DIFFICULT PROBLEM, IS OFTEN NOT TO VEER OFF TO SEEK SAME OBJECTIVE FROM DIFFERENT ANGLE, BUT RATHER TO TAKE RIGHT ANGLE TURN TO NEW OBJECTIVE ALTHOGETHER. MILLS SAW THIS KIND OF SWITCH IN HEATH'S THINKING ON ULSTER PROBLEM AS IMMINENT. IF PRESENT COURSE DOES

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NOT WORK OUT, ALL GUARANTEES OF N. I. CONSTITUTION ACT 1973,

INTO WHICH AL PREVIOUS GUARANTEES OF BORDER HAVE BEEN MERGED,  
WOULD BE REGARDED AS INOPERATIVE AS THE REST OF THE ACT.

3. TALKS WITH COSGRAVE, WITHOUT PRECEDENT AS TO LOCALE, REFLECTIVE  
OF MAJOR CHANGE IN HEATH'S THINKING, MILLS BELIEVES. ANOTHER  
WILL BE REMOVAL FROM ULSTER SCENE SOON OF WHITELAW, PROBABLY  
WITHIN FOUR TO SIX WEEKS. HE IS NEEDED AT DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT,  
WHERE HIS STATURE, IMAGINATION, PERSUASIVENESS AND CONCILIATIVE  
QUALITIES CAN BE APPLIED TO MAJOR PROBLEMS. MILLS POINTED OUT  
THAT ONCE DETERMINATION IS MADE THAT ASSEMBLY/EXECUTIVE SYSTEM  
WON'T WORK, IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE OF WHITELAW, " ONE  
OF TOP FIVE OF CABINET," IS NECESSARY. "WHY WAIT THREE TO SIX  
MONTHS MORE, BY WHICH TIME WHITELAW WOULD BE DISCREDITED?"  
MILLS NOTED THAT CALLAGHAN, AFTER HIS EXPOSURE TO N. I. PROBLEM,  
HAD BEEN VIRTUALLY OFF SCENE FOR TWO YEARS, AND COULD PUBLISH  
HIS BOOK ON N. I. ONLY TWO YEARS LATER. WHITELAW WOULD, IN  
ANY CASE, COME BACK, BUT PARTY COULD NOT RISK HIS ECLIPSE FOR  
ANY SUCH PERIOD.

4. FROM ULSTER POINT OF VIEW, WHITELAW SHOULD BE REPLACED BY  
ONE OF TOP FIVE OF CABINET; THIS WOULD IN EFFECT HAVE TO BE ROBERT  
CARR. BUT, AS MILLS PUT IT, UK IMPERATIVES WILL MEAN DIFFERENT,  
LOWER- RANKING REPLACEMENT. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE EITHER  
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE GODBER OR CHIEF WHIP PYM, MEN WITH CABINET  
RANK, BUT NOT AT TOP LEVEL. MILLS SPECIFICALLY REJECTED  
POSSIBILITY THAT PRESENT N. I. MINISTER OF STATE VAN STRAUBENZEE  
MIGHT SUCCEED (BELFAST A-76).

5. AS IF TO CONVINCE HIMSELF ON ACCURACY OF HIS PREDICTIONS,  
MILLS NOTED THAT IN NOVEMBER 1971 HE HAD PREDICTED THAT WHITELAW  
WOULD BE PUT IN CHARGE OF DIRECT RULE WHEN IT CAME.  
PENBERTHY

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